

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-B-F-T

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

25X1

SUBJECT Information on Cattle Diseases in East Germany

DATE DISTR. 6 May 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. East Germany is planning a propaganda campaign charging that United States aircraft are dropping pieces of binding twine impregnated with a toxic material which causes the East German cattle disease.
2. Scientists at the Friedrich Loeffler-Institut on the Island of Riems, are supporting the infectious disease theory, but to date they have not been able to reproduce the symptoms of the affected cattle by transmission tests.
3. Scientists at the University Institute for Veterinary Hygiene and Animal Diseases, Leipzig, are approaching the problem on the theory of a toxic condition, possibly caused by chlorinated naphthalenes. The binding twine used in East Germany is manufactured from wood fibers and impregnated with a coal tar product as a preservative. Attempts are being made to ascertain which possible toxic substances used in the preservative are the causative agents, in the belief that the disease is hyperkeratosis.
4. Losses are believed to exceed those published in the East German press. There are indications that the disease continues to spread.

1.	<u>Comment.</u>

The following article, which appeared on the 14 April in the West German daily paper Der Tagesspiegel, indicates that the propaganda campaign is already under way:

*The Soviet Zone authorities have been forced to impose strict quarantine rules as a result of the spread of hog cholera (Schweinepest) and other livestock diseases in the Soviet Zone. The inhabitants of farms where livestock is affected are forbidden to leave the farms before changing their clothes and shoes. According to the statistics of competent authorities, in February 1955, hogs in 179 townships (Gemeinde) and 226 farms were infected with hog cholera. The Soviet Zone Council of

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

25X1

25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

~~SECRET~~

25X1

- 2 -

Ministers has declared that, so far, 5000 heads of cattle have been affected by a nondiagnosed ailment and that 1200 of the stricken animals have died. It is claimed that the animals' ailment was caused by a toxic substance which had been added by "agents" of the American secret service to the binding twine for straw, whence it became mixed in with chopped material (Haecksel))."

25X1

~~SECRET~~

25X1